

Electronic Public Input Notes:

02.11.10

You may want to rethink some of the "within city limits" rules since College Station has expanded its city limits and now includes a lot of areas that are basically "in the country". A rooster should be allowed out in the country, provided it is a certain distance from the neighbors. (same comment regarding the ostriches, emus, and pigs)

Veterinarians at TAMU Veterinary School have said that cats and dogs only need to be vaccinated every three years, not annually. It is not good for the animals to be vaccinated more frequently. Please change the rabies section to match what vets say is best for the animals.

As a long time supporter of the Trap-Neuter-Return & Monitor approach to managing unowned/feral cats, I am very concerned with the latest rewrite of Section G of the Ordinance. You have an opportunity to implement a proven and proactive approach to feral cat management that invites public support and participation while lessening the burden on the City animal control staff. Unfortunately, by adopting the current version, you are placing unrealistic and unattainable requirements on your citizens who wish to help alleviate the impact of the feral cats as well as additional oversight duties on your A/C staff.

The caretakers of these cats already put a great deal of money and effort into the management of their groups of cats by providing food, spay/neutering, vaccinations, and daily feedings. Adding an additional layer of bureaucracy and expense in the form of registration fees, pre-exposure rabies vaccines, quarterly reporting, etc. will only lead to fewer people being willing or able to help the City in its efforts to manage the unowned/feral cat population. Additionally, there are unrealistic restrictions such as G(h)(g): the prohibition of colonies "within 200 feet of a publicly owned right of way, parks open to the public, government building open to the public and schools excluding state universities". Considering the physical makeup of College Station this restriction effectively eliminates a colony being able to be in compliance with the ordinance in the vast majority the city.

A more realistic approach would be to embrace and encourage the citizens of your community who are willing to assist in the management of the feral cat with fewer restrictions and access to more support resources as other cities like Austin, San Antonio, and Dallas have done.

I would be happy to provide examples of other ordinances and to participate in further discussions on this issue. Thank you.

02.26.10

The safety of the dog parks should be addressed. Increasing number of dangerous dogs are entering the dog parks and attacking other dogs. The owners are being irresponsible and not handling the matter. Patrols of the dog parks at peak hours would be very beneficial and increase the safety in the dog parks. It would be tragic if one of these dogs turned on an owner or child.